

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 24, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
Secretary
Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C., 20230

The Honorable James Mattis
Secretary
Department of Defense
1400 Defense Blvd.
Washington D.C., 20301

The Honorable Dan Coats
Director
Office of the Director of National Intelligence
1500 Tysons McLean Dr.
McLean, VA 22102

Secretary Pompeo, Secretary Mattis and Director Coats:

We are writing to formally request briefings of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI), House Foreign Affairs Committee (HFAC) and House Armed Services Committee (HASC) regarding President Trump's private meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Helsinki.

On July 16, 2018, President Trump held a private meeting with President Putin, where one other U.S. government employee attended—a State Department interpreter. Since the meeting, Congress has received no notification from the White House or Executive Branch about the topics of the meeting or any purported deals or agreements reached on behalf of the United States. It also appears that President Trump's cabinet has not been briefed on the private meeting, and Congress must be made aware of some of the potential deals or agreements that Russia claims were struck.


Democrats and Republicans alike were shocked to watch President Trump publicly side with Russia over its responsibility for interfering in the 2016 U.S. elections and directly contradict the Intelligence Community's assessment. But we also have profound concerns over what was said privately and would appreciate the opportunity to discuss with each of you the national security matters that were discussed, including Russia; its illegal occupation and


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attempted annexation of Crimea; ongoing conflict in eastern Ukraine; ongoing sanctions policy towards Russia; Syria; the U.S. commitment to NATO and Article 5; counterterrorism cooperation; strategic stability and arms control; and China.

We would appreciate your consideration of our request and hope to schedule a briefing with each of our committees by noon on July 26, 2018.

Sincerely,


ELIOT L. ENGEL
Ranking Member
Foreign Affairs Committee


ADAM SMITH
Ranking Member
Armed Services Committee


ADAM B. SCHIFF
Ranking Member
Permanent Select Committee
on Intelligence